




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): Happy World Town Planning Day. Let us look at the record of the minister who just spoke because he is the planning minister. He wants to lecture parliament about records, so let's talk about the waste of over \$200 million for the white elephant that sits at Wellcamp. That is his record and not the LNP's. That is his waste and his record. What about lot approvals in Queensland going down under his watch? What about the housing crisis under his watch? What about the health crisis caused by him, as health minister, giving a hospital pass to the current health minister? He will not mention any of his record on World Town Planning Day, but we certainly will.

While we are talking about records, let's look at the health record of this government. The Melbourne Cup is the race that stops the nation. Now it is also the race that stops the health minister in her tracks and from performing her duties. First we had the Premier cancelling cabinet to go on a superyacht and now we have the health minister knocking off parliament early to go on a Melbourne Cup cruise. That is what is happening: the Premier cancels cabinet for a superyacht and the health minister cancels parliament early to go on a Melbourne Cup cruise. This Labor government is all at sea. They are all at sea.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made and I ask the member to withdraw.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! I will deal with the point of order. The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. This government is lost at sea. This government is running a leaky boat. That is what is happening. What is it with this government and boats? They appear in every bit of controversy. The Premier goes to the Whitsundays to be on a superyacht and, rather than dealing with the Queensland health crisis, the health minister chooses to go on a Melbourne Cup cruise.

Mr McCallum interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba, you need to be in your own chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: Where are the priorities of this health minister?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. On the passing of Her Majesty, the sitting days of parliament changed and we agreed to sit for an additional three days. In the first week we sat until 6 pm on Friday, so we can do it. Then all of a sudden, in the next sitting week, on a motion moved by the Leader of the House

standing orders were changed. In my contribution on the debate of that motion I asked why we needed to knock off early. The LNP members were happy to stay here. We were all here. We are not like the CFMMEU and have to knock off and go for pub drinks on a Friday arvo. We were happy to stay here, do our duty and discharge our obligations. We were happy to stay as we had the week before.

I ask the question: why was one o'clock chosen? The Leader of the House spoke in that debate. She never disclosed to this House, on moving and speaking in support of that motion, that her luggage was packed and downstairs and that in three hours she would be on a cruise down to the Melbourne Cup.

Ms FARMER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has repeatedly made personally offensive comments which the Leader of the House has asked him to withdraw.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will hear the point of order in silence.

Ms FARMER: The member continues to do so. I seek your guidance on how often the member can continue to do the same thing.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Currumbin, you are warned. I asked to take that point of order in silence and you continued to interject. There is no point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I say, we were happy to front up to parliament. We all were asking the question: why was one o'clock chosen? Why specifically did parliament have to finish at one o'clock on that day? It is now abundantly clear to everyone. This morning the health minister asked the Manager of Opposition Business not to raise this issue. Why not? Why can the health minister not be held accountable for doing her job? God knows, they have mentioned plenty of members on this side for similar things. We will not cop that or stay silent because it would be convenient for the health minister.

I will give the health minister a little advice. She was questioned at the press conference yesterday about where this issue came from. I say to her: do not look to the opposition; look closer to home. Look to your own leaky boat. It is leaking against the health minister at a rate that my tinny could not keep up with. My 90-horsepower tinny could not keep up with the amount of leaking that is happening against this health minister! Why? They have lost confidence in the health minister. Queenslanders have lost confidence in the health minister. She has her priorities all wrong. She would rather be wining and dining on a cruise ship than dealing with the health crisis that Queenslanders want the health minister to deal with.

(Time expired)